Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 SWF-02

AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /128 W

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O R 171800Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7955

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAID, OVIP (TEVI, BENISSAN)

SUBJ: MIN COMMERCE TEVI VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WHEAT

REF: A. LOME 1505 (NOTAL); B. STATE 153563 (NOTAL) C. EC BRUSSELS 3385 (NOTAL)

- 1. MIN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BENISSAN TEVI RECEIVED A-1 VISA JULY 15. REQUEST VIA MESSENGER INDICATED ONLY INTENTION TRANSIT US EN ROUTE KINGSTON, JAMAICA CONFERENCE OF EEC-ASSOCIATED STATES WHICH OPENS JULY 22.
- 2. AT BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION JULY 14 TEVI AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF HIS REQUEST FOR 5,000 TONS WHEAT IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, WHO INFORMED HIM WASHINGTON HAD BEEN ADVISED AND RESPONSE WAS EXPECTED SOON. MINISTER MENTIONED FORTHCOMING TRIP TO CARIBBEAN, INCLUDING VISIT TO PUERTO RICO, BUT SAID NOTHING OF PLANS TO PURSUE WHEAT REQUEST IN WASHINGTON DURING TRIP.
- 3. REFTEL (B) ARRIVED NIGHT JULY 16, SEEN BY US JULY 17, BY WHICH TIME TEVI HAD LEFT FOR PARIS. MIN COMMERCE DIRECTOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CABINET TOLD EMBOFF TODAY (JULY 17) TEVI GAVE HIM NO PRECISE

ITINERARY, BUT HE WILL BE IN PARIS TONIGHT, BRUSSELS TOMORROW; HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW TEVI'S ETA/ETD US, OR WHETHER MINISTER PLANS VISIT WASHINGTON EN ROUTE JAMAICA OR AFTERWARDS. HE SAID TEVI PLANS VISIT US AND CANADA "TO DISCUSS WHEAT," BUT HAS NOT ASKED TOGOLESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO MAKE ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS; HE INTENDS, INSTEAD, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TALKS AFTER ARRIVAL WASHINGTON.

4. REGRET SEQUENCE OF EVENTS PREVENTED DELIVERY OF POLITE REJECTION OF REQUEST ON BASIS REFTEL (B) AND EARLIER USG RESPONSE. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO RECALL TEVI RAISED SAME QUESTION OCTOBER 16, 1973 WITH DR ADAMS DURING LATTER'S LAST TOGO VISIT AND DR ADAMS GAVE NEGATIVE REPLY (LOME 1939). ALSO NOTE EC COMMISSION INTENDS GRANT TOGO 3,500 METRIC TONS GRAIN--APPARENTLY WHEAT (USEC BRUSSELS 3385) AS PART OF ITS 73/74 COMMITMENT UNDER FOOD AID CONVENTION.

5. IN TEVI'S ABSENCE, EMBASSY WILL PROCEED WITH NECESSARY FORMAL REPLY TO FONMIN NOTE FEBRUARY 28 AS AGREED WITH DEPARTMENT (REFTEL B). RAWLS

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